GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1774
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE
MAHBOOB ZAHEDI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether livestock population in the country is around 60 crore of which 50 crore are susceptible to the foot and mouth disease;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether by using traditional methods, the entire livestock population in the country cannot be vaccinated;

(d) if so, whether a method developed by Scandinavian Scientist Frankel has proved to be more effective;

(e) if so, whether Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has also tested the said method; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b): As per 1997 - All Indian Livestock Census Estimates, the country`s livestock population is about 48 crore, of which the livestock, namely, cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats and pigs, susceptible to Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is approx. 47.76 crore.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): No, Sir. It is an obsolete technology and is not being used at present.

(e)&(f): Yes, Sir. After the development of Frankel vaccine in Netherlands during 1953, the same procedure was followed in India for vaccinating the livestock population. Shortly after the introduction of Frankel system, tissue culture methods were developed and vaccine production was started in primary cells. At the same time, a cell line of Baby Hamster Kidney (BHK) cells become available which turned out to be better host cell system for production of FMD vaccine. This system has now become the most familiar and globally accepted methods for the production of FMD vaccine.The vaccine in India is also being produced by this method and is being utilized for vaccinating the susceptible livestock population of the country,. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) makes efforts to modify the present vaccine, resulted introduction of an oil adjuvant vaccine for protecting livestock population against FMD which has better immune response.